

2002 Summer Sunshine Awards

Application Package

Through the *Summer Sunshine Awards*, we recognize the outstanding achievements and hard work that has occurred throughout the country in providing nutritious meals to children through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver available to school food authorities. These awards allow us the opportunity to recognize creative, successful strategies and share them with other sponsors and State agencies.

We are accepting applications for the *2002 Summer Sunshine Awards* in the following five categories:

1. Service to Special Populations
2. Successful Outreach
3. Expansion through the 14 State Pilot Project
4. Expansion through the Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver
5. State Agency Achievement

More information on each category can be found on the following pages.

Eligible Applicants

- Local-level **sponsors operating SFSP** are eligible to apply, or be nominated, for the categories of *Service to Special Populations* and *Successful Outreach*.
- Local-level **sponsors operating SFSP under the 14 State pilot project**, which eliminates the cost accounting requirement are eligible to apply, or be nominated, for the category *Expansion through the 14 State Pilot Project*. Sponsors authorized for the pilot in these States include school food authorities, government agencies, residential camps and National Youth Sports Programs. The 14 States are Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, and Puerto Rico.
- **School food authorities providing summer meals through the Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver** are eligible to apply, or be nominated, for the category *Expansion through the Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver*.
- **State agencies operating the SFSP** are eligible to apply, or be nominated, for the category of *State Agency Achievement*.

Award Categories, Evaluation Criteria, and Questions for Narrative Submission

Narratives are limited to 3 pages, single-sided, 12-point font or larger, and should address all of the questions under the appropriate category. The narratives will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Innovation (maximum 30 points). Maximum score will be awarded to applicants who use creative measures to expand summer feeding operations and promote participation in the Program.

Sustainability (maximum 25 points). Maximum score will be awarded to applicants whose efforts help ensure continued program participation by sponsors and/or eligible children.

Transferability (maximum 25 points). Maximum score will be awarded to applicants whose initiatives can be successfully replicated by sponsors, State agencies or program advocates in other areas.

Cost Effectiveness (maximum 15 points). Maximum score will be awarded to applicants whose efforts make good use of available resources, including non-program resources.

Presentation (maximum 5 points). Maximum score will be awarded to applications that are complete, clear and succinct. Narratives must not exceed the 3-page limit.

Total Maximum Score: 100 points

Nominations for the following five categories will be considered for the *2002 Summer Sunshine Awards*:

1. **Service to Special Populations**-This award is presented to an SFSP sponsor that targets and serves special populations of children. The special populations can include: children of migrant workers; American Indian or Alaska Native children; children from other minority groups; children in rural areas; and children with special needs.

Your narrative should describe your efforts and results in reaching a special population through SFSP, including:

- The group of children served, and a description of the site(s) where meals were provided;
- Specific steps taken to reach this group of children;
- Any challenges or barriers encountered and how they were addressed;

- Any non-program resources (e.g., monetary contributions, in-kind donations, volunteers, partnerships with other organizations) that were utilized in your efforts;
- How children's participation was sustained over the course of the program, and the outlook for next year.

2. **Successful Outreach**-This award is presented to an SFSP sponsor that uses creative strategies to promote participation of eligible children in its program.

Your narrative should describe your efforts and results in promoting your program, including:

- Specific steps taken to promote your program and reach eligible children, and their impact;
- The most effective techniques used in reaching the children;
- Any challenges or barriers encountered and how they were addressed;
- Any non-program resources (e.g., monetary contributions, in-kind donations, volunteers, partnerships with other organizations) that were utilized in your efforts;
- How children's participation was sustained over the course of the program, and the outlook for next year.

3. **Expansion through the 14 State Pilot Project**-This award is presented to an SFSP sponsor (operating under the 14 State pilot project which eliminates the cost accounting requirement) that demonstrates substantial service to children in the community. The sponsor could be new to SFSP since inception of the pilot in 2001, or a previously participating sponsor that substantially increased summer food service to children in the community as a result of the pilot project.

Your narrative should describe your efforts and results in providing service to children in the community, including:

- Specific steps taken to reach community children, and their impact;
- The impact of the pilot project changes on your operation of the program;
- Any challenges or barriers encountered and how they were addressed;
- Any non-program resources (e.g., monetary contributions, in-kind donations, volunteers, partnerships with other organizations) that were utilized in your efforts;

- How children's participation was sustained over the course of the program, and the outlook for next year.

4. **Expansion through the Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver**-This award is presented to a school food authority, providing summer meals through the Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver that demonstrates substantial service to children in the community. The school food authority could be new to summer meals as a result of the waiver, or a previously participating school food authority that substantially increased summer food service to children in the community as a result of the waiver.

Your narrative should describe your efforts and results in providing service to children in the community, including:

- Specific steps taken to reach community children, and their impact;
- The impact of the waiver on your operation of the program;
- Any challenges or barriers encountered and how they were addressed;
- Any non-program resources (e.g., monetary contributions, in-kind donations, volunteers, partnerships with other organizations) that were utilized in your efforts;
- How children's participation was sustained over the course of the program, and the outlook for next year.

5. **State Agency Achievement**-This award is presented to an SFSP State agency that demonstrates outstanding achievements in reaching children eligible for the program.

Your narrative should describe your efforts and results in improving access to summer meals for eligible children, including:

- Successful strategies or methods used to reach eligible sponsors and children, and their impact;
- Efforts made to promote the 14 State pilot project or Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver, as applicable, and their impact;
- Any challenges or barriers encountered and how they were addressed;
- Any non-program resources (e.g., monetary contributions, in-kind donations, volunteers, partnerships with other organizations) that were utilized in your efforts;
- Successful methods to sustain sponsor participation from year to year.

How to Apply

Applicants for the *2002 Summer Sunshine Awards* must complete and submit an entry form for sponsors or State agencies, as applicable, and a narrative (3 pages, maximum) which addresses the questions listed under the appropriate category.

Nominations for sponsors should be submitted to the SFSP State agency by the due date established by the State agency. Nominations for State agencies should be submitted to the regional office by the due date established by the region. Regional offices are responsible for selecting one nominee per category to forward to FNS Headquarters for final review and selection of winners.

Notification of winners

Winners will be notified, in writing, by FNS shortly after the final selections are made. Selected nominees and category winners may be featured in a publication that promotes the SFSP or be invited to participate in future meetings. Please be aware that there is no monetary compensation for these awards.

Questions

Any questions regarding these awards should be directed to your State agency or regional office.